

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NORTHAM

Telephone Number:
BIDEFORD 4976

Public Health Department
Windmill Lane,
NORTHAM,
North Devon.

Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Public Health Inspector.
for the year 1968

Doctor E. Williams:

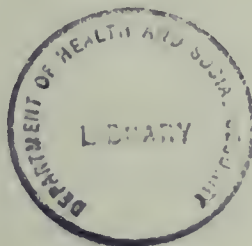
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

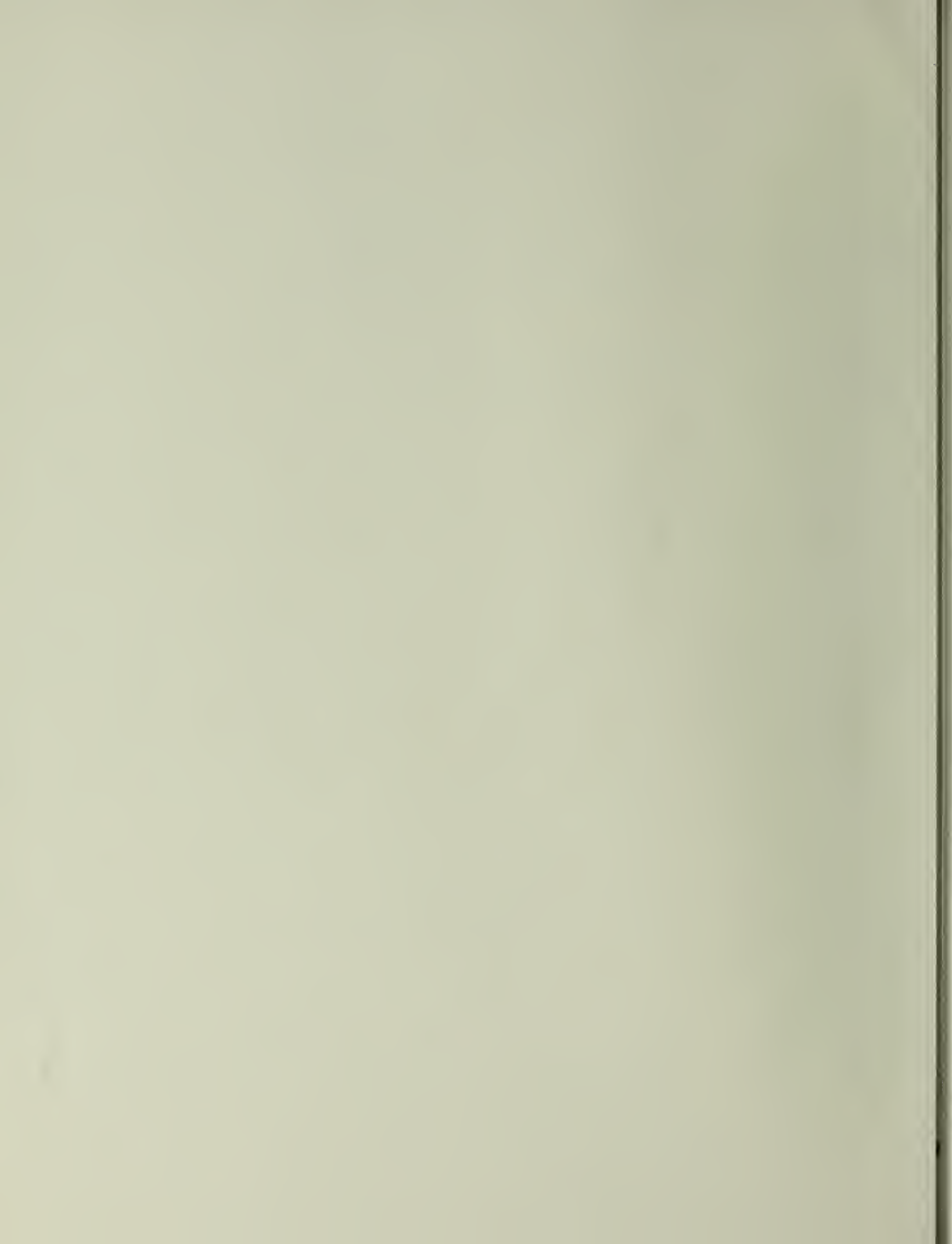
Medical Officer of Health

C. J. Utting:

M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspector





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CHAPTER 1

1.1

Let $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function. We define the image of a set $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ under f to be the set $f(A) = \{f(x) \mid x \in A\}$.

It is easy to see that $f(A) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ for any $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$. Moreover, if $A \subseteq B$, then $f(A) \subseteq f(B)$.

Now, let $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function. We say that f is injective if $f(x) = f(y)$ implies $x = y$. We say that f is surjective if for every $y \in \mathbb{R}$, there exists an $x \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $f(x) = y$.

It is easy to see that if f is injective, then $f(A) \cap f(B) = f(A \cap B)$ for any $A, B \subseteq \mathbb{R}$. Moreover, if f is surjective, then $f(A \cup B) = f(A) \cup f(B)$ for any $A, B \subseteq \mathbb{R}$.

Now, let $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function. We say that f is bijective if f is both injective and surjective.

It is easy to see that if f is bijective, then $f(A \cap B) = f(A) \cap f(B)$ for any $A, B \subseteq \mathbb{R}$.

Now, let $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function. We say that f is invertible if there exists a function $g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $g(f(x)) = x$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

It is easy to see that if f is invertible, then f is bijective.

Now, let $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function. We say that f is a homeomorphism if f is a bijective function and f is continuous.

It is easy to see that if f is a homeomorphism, then f is invertible.

Now, let $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function. We say that f is a diffeomorphism if f is a homeomorphism and f is differentiable.

It is easy to see that if f is a diffeomorphism, then f is a homeomorphism.

Now, let $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function. We say that f is a smooth map if f is a diffeomorphism and f is smooth.

Public Health Committee - Year 1968.

CHAIRMAN: A. C. Saunders.

Councillors: Mrs. I. B. Bignell
Mrs. C. M. Congdon
S. G. Eastman
H. E. Hopkins
C. T. Hornabrook
J. O. Morrish
J. Reay
J. Smith

STAFF:

The staff of the Public Health Department consists of:-

Part-time Officers:-

Doctor E. Williams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health

Miss M. Gale, Clerk/Shorthand/Typist.

Full-time Officer:-

C. J. Utting, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Report on the health and environmental conditions of the Northam Urban District for the year 1968.

The estimated population figure for the year was 7,580 as compared with 7,450 in 1967.

Whilst the total births numbered 89, which was 2 less than the previous year, deaths increased by 26 to 137. There is, however, a high percentage of retired persons living in the district.

It is most satisfying to report no infant deaths under the age of one year, in fact no person under the age of 24 died during the year; there being 1 death in the 25 - 34 age-group (cancer).

Infectious diseases totalled 34 - the great majority of which were due to measles, and it is expected that this figure will decline with the recently introduced measles immunization programme. No whooping cough notifications were received during the year, and no cases of lung tuberculosis were reported. Infantile paralysis, or poliomyelitis, has not been reported for a number of years.

Disposal of raw sewage into the Taw and Torridge estuaries still continues, although partial treatment occurs for the villages of Braunton, Fremington, Yelland, Bickington and Instow.

The Bideford Council's Consulting Engineers, together with those of Northam Council, are at present preparing plans for a joint disposal scheme. Barnstaple Borough Council have also submitted a scheme of sewage treatment to the Ministry. The completion of these schemes will be of benefit to all the area which depends so much on the tourist trade.

E. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	4,134
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate) ..	7,580
Population at 1961 Census	6,572
Rateable Value (as at 1st April, 1968)	£243,290
Product of a Penny Rate (Year 1968/69)	£1,020
General Rate in the £ for Year 1968/69	12s.6d.
Number of Inhabited Houses (as at 1st April 1968).. ..	3029
Number of Council Houses (as at 31st December, 1968) ..	315
Density of Persons per House	2.50

Extracts From Vital Statistics

Births: Area Comparability Factor.. .. .	1.46
Deaths: Area Comparability Factor.. .. .	0.57

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

Number	89
Rate per 1,000 population	11.7
Rate per 1,000 population, adjusted by Comp. Factor	17.1
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births	10.1%

Still Births

Number	NIL
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	NIL
Total Live and Still Births	89
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	NIL

INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	NIL
Legit. " " " " Legit. " "	NIL
Illegit." " " " Illegit." "	NIL
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births).. .. .	NIL
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births	NIL
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still Births, and Deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births).. .. .	NIL

MATERNAL MORTALITY (INCLUDING ABORTION).

Number of Deaths	NIL
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	NIL
<u>DEATHS.</u>	137
Death Rate per 1,000 population	18.1
Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comp. Factor... .. .	10.3

BIRTHS

During the year there were 89 births which was 2 less than occurred in 1967.

Live Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	34	46	80
Illegitimate	4	5	9
			89

Still Births.

No still births were notified during the year.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths of Urban District residents during the year was 137 as compared with 111 during 1967.

Males	Females	Total
69	68	137

Death Rate: per 1,000 population (adjusted).. .. 10.3

Death Rate: England and Wales (adjusted) 8.9

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

No deaths of infants under 1 year of age were notified.

Maternal Mortality.

No deaths of mothers in childbirth occurred during the year.

Cancer Deaths.

There were 28 deaths due to cancer a similar number occurred in 1967.

	Males	Females
Stomach	1	0
Lungs and Bronchus	2	0
Uterus	-	4
Breast	-	4
Leukaemia	0	2
Others	11	4
	14	14

Infectious Diseases.

During the year 34 cases of infectious diseases were notified.

Measles.....	28
Infectious Jaundice.....	6

Food Poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1947.

This Act is concerned with the compulsory removal of elderly persons who are in need of care and attention to County Welfare Homes.

No action was taken under this Act during the year.

U.D.

Other Diseases of Circulatory System

Cause of Death at Different Periods of Life During 1968 in Northam U.D. (Continued).

Cause of Death	Total Under 4 Weeks and under 1 year													Sex	All Ages	4 Weeks and under 1 year	1-5-15-25-35-45-55-65-75 and over
Influenza	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Bronchitis and Emphesema	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Peptic Ulcer	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cirrhosis of Liver	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suicides and Self-Inflicted Injuries	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	69	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	4	10	24	28
	F	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	4	15	44

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE

1. Immunisation and Vaccination.

Protective immunisation and vaccination against Diphtheria Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Smallpox and Poliomyelitis are undertaken by the General Practitioners and at the Infant Welfare and School Clinics.

There are two Infant Welfare Clinics in the Urban District; one at Northam and one at Appledore. Clinics are held fortnightly.

2. Meals on Wheels.

A meals on Wheels service is provided for the aged in the Urban District. Approximately twenty-seven meals are prepared twice weekly at "Fairlea", the County Welfare Home, and are delivered by the Women's Voluntary Service to Northam Appledore and Westward Ho! residents.

3. Infectious Diseases.

There is an Infectious Disease section at the Kingsley Hospital, Bideford which serves Northam as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon.

4. Smallpox.

All Smallpox cases are sent to LISKEARD Smallpox Hospital. Plymouth Ambulance Service will provide transport for smallpox cases. Telephone number: Plymouth 64101.

5. County Welfare Home.

There is one County Welfare Home for the aged at "Fairlea", Northam. The buildings are to be extended and the total of 24 will be extended to 38 residents.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my fourth annual report on the administration of the environmental health of the Urban District of Northam for the year 1968.

During the previous year the accent of the work of the department has been on the control of caravan sites but this year the survey of the older houses of Appledore has been predominant.

Report of Public Health Inspector (Continued).

A detailed report of a survey of fifty houses in an area of two streets was presented to the Council comparing the findings with a national survey that was carried out in 1967 by the Government. The report and recommendations was adopted in its entirety. Generally the standard is lower than the national average and every effort will be made to secure the Council's policy of repair and improvement because if this is not possible the only other alternative will be clearance and redevelopment areas. This alternative would prove very expensive to the community as a whole and would ruin the inherent old world charm of an unspoilt seventeenth century fishing village.

The Government White Paper "New Homes from Old Houses" has promised increased financial assistance for the improvement and repair of old houses. The new legislation is expected to come into force during the late summer of 1969 when grants of up to £1,200 will be possible.

The number of complaints that have been received by the department has been steadily increasing year by year and it was hoped that the total for 1968 would be less than in 1967. Some of these complaints can be dealt with in a few minutes but others will consume months of enquiry and enforcement action. This steady rise in the number of complaints is attributed to good publicity arising from constant contact with members of the public combined with a full time environmental health service. An analysis of complaints can be found on page 12 of the report together with a record of complaints over the last four years. I consider that a complaint from a member of the public should be given priority and if possible an investigation is started within 24 hours.

Due to the number of complaints the routine work of the department has been affected. Visits to offices, shops, food premises and house inspections have been considerably affected.

The most common complaint this year has been the choked drain representing one in every five complaints received. It is the statutory duty of the Public Health Inspector and of the Council to ensure that all choked drains and subsequent nuisances are cleared without delay. In many instances although the owners were doing their utmost to obtain the services of a builder, there was a delay that caused great inconvenience to all concerned.

In some cases sewage was discharging across public places for some days before action was taken. The local builders, who are at present adequately employed, are obviously reluctant to carry out these unpleasant tasks and in my opinion the provision of a Council Drain Clearing Service would be greatly appreciated by the general public.

In the interest of public health the rapid clearance of these nuisances is of great importance, especially in a holiday district that relies so much on good publicity. An outbreak of infectious disease would have a direct effect of the number of visitors and eventually on the financial economy of many of the local people. The Council will shortly be considering the need and feasibility of a Drain Clearing Service available at the request of the public.

For the second time in two years a local firm of butchers were prosecuted at Bideford Magistrates Court for seven offences under food hygiene legislation. The Bideford Magistrates found the firms guilty on six charges with an absolute discharge on one charge and the fines totalled £51 plus costs.

With only one Public Health Inspector in the District problems arise where action is required during my absence and a locum arrangement with the Public Health Department of Bideford Borough Council has been agreed and I am indebted to the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. A. E. T. Netting and his staff for their assistance during the year.

I would also like to thank members of the Council and Staff for their assistance and support during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant.

C. J. UTTING.

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

General Sanitation

Water Supply	1
Drainage	300
Stables and Piggeries	10
Animal Boarding	2
Caravan and Camping Sites	81
Rent Acts	8
Factories	13
Public Conveniences	1
Licensed Premises	1
Refuse Disposal	4
Pest Control (Rats and Mice)	92
Clean Air	7

General Sanitation (Continued).

Schools..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Shops ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Noise ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Miscellaneous Visits			..	..	..	..	..	37
Swimming Baths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12

Housing.

Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	..	..	75
Re-visits paid to the above	..	..	42
Visits under Housing Acts	..	..	62
Re-visits paid to the above	..	..	48
Overcrowding, number of houses inspected	..	..	3
Filthy or verminous premises, re-visits	..	..	3
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	..	..	63
Improvement Grants	..	..	103

Infectious Diseases.

Visits regarding Disinfection	..	..	..	..	4
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits			..	..	1

Meat and Food Inspection.

Inspection of Meat.

Visits to Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	2
Shops and Stalls	..	..	..	..	..	4
Other Premises	..	..	..	..	..	5

Visits to:

Hotels	1
Bakers and Confectioners	22
Butchers	7
Dairies and Milk Distributors	2
Food Preparing Premises	6
Fried Fish Shops	2
Grocers.. .. .	8
Ice-cream Premises	11
Restaurants	6
Street Vendors and Hawkers' Carts	9
Licensed Premises	1

Visits in connection with sampling of:

Milk	2
Ice Cream	30
Food and Drug Samples	10
Miscellaneous Food Visits.. .. .	13
Swimming Bath Water	1
Total of all Visits	1121

Summary of Notices Served.

Total Number of Notices Served.. .. .	77
Total Number of Notices complied with or cancelled	56
Total Number of Informal Notices Served	58
Total Number of Statutory Notices Served.. .. .	19
Total Number of Notices served under the Housing Acts	16
Total Number of Notices served under the Public Health Acts	34
Total Number of Notices served under the Food Hygiene Regulations	8
Total Number of Notices served under the Caravan Sites Act.. .. .	12
Total Number of Notices served under the Animal Boarding Establishments Act	1
Total Number of Notices served under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	1
Total Number of Notices served under the Factories Acts	4

COMPLAINTS.

There follows an analysis of all complaints of nuisances etc. received from members of the Public during the year.

Choked drains.. .. .	56
Rats and Mice.. .. .	43
Drainage and Sanitation.. .. .	40
House Defects.. .. .	36
Keeping of Animals.. .. .	24
Refuse	18
Food	12
Camping and Caravan sites	11
Noise	8
Atmospheric Pollution	7
Insects etc.	7
Dead animals	6
Infectious disease.. .. .	5

Complaints (Continued).

Food premises etc.	4
Sea Pollution	4
Drinking water pollution.. .. .	4
Dirty Houses	3
Stream water pollution	3
Unsatisfactory holiday accommodation	2
Offensive accumulation	1
Overcrowding	1
Factory	1
Harrassment by landlord	1

A record of complaints over the last four years is as follows

1965.. .. .	117
1966.. .. .	149
1967.. .. .	211
1968.. .. .	297

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Standard Grants.

Number of Applications.. .. .	8
Number of Applications Approved	8
Amount of Maximum Grants Approved	£1,775
Number of Grants Paid	7
Amount of Grants Paid	£1,184

Discretionary Grants.

Number of Applications.. .. .	1
Number of Applications Approved	1
Amount of Maximum Grant	£400
Number of Grants Paid	1
Amount of Grant Paid	£400

The response to the improvement grant system has again been very disappointing but the Government have stated that it is their intention in 1969 to make the system financially more attractive particularly in the case of tenanted property where the landlord will be rewarded by the abolition of "controlled tenancies" and the setting up of a "fair rent".

Housing Survey of the Older Houses of Appledore.

This year a detailed survey of older houses was carried out to assess the general condition of Appledore housing standards. Two streets were selected for their average housing and the information that was collected has been very helpful in considering future housing policy.

The results obtained can only be accurately applied to the houses inspected but a sample survey may be used to provide a reasonably accurate indication of the condition generally expected to be found in the inspected houses. The collected information is compared with a National Government Survey made in 1967 and a comparison of the two surveys reveals that although the percentages are not similar they are surprisingly parallel. There are 1,697 electors living in 826 older houses (an older house is taken as pre 1939 construction). The 50 houses that have been inspected represent 6% of the older houses in the village.

The detailed results of the survey are as follows:

1. Occupation,

	<u>Appledore%</u>	<u>National Survey%</u>
Owner/Occupied Houses	62	51
Rent Controlled Tenancies	14)	
Rent De-Controlled Tenancies -	)	
Unfurnished	12)	48
Rent De-Controlled Tenancies -	)	
Furnished	6)	
Empty Houses	2	
Closed Houses	4	1
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

2. Repair, Improvement and Existing Amenities.

House Condition	All Houses %		Owner/Occupied%		Tenanted	
	Appledore	England	Appledore	England	Appledore	England
Good Repair.	70	88	86	93	44	83
Bad Repair, but repairable.	28	5	14	4	56	7
Bad Repair but not repairable.	2	7	0	3	0	10
TOTALS	100	100	100	100	100	100

Amenities Lacking	All Houses %		Owner/Occupied %		Tenanted	
	Appledore	England	Appledore	England	Appledore	England
Lacking one or more Modern Amenities.	56	25	45	33	75	48
Bath with hot and cold.	52	13	42	27	69	65
Wash basin with hot and cold.	50	19	42	28	63	54
Hot water to a sink.	34	22	23	13	50	52
Inside w.c.	48	19	36	32	69	52
Full Improvement Possible.	54	-	45	-	75	-

3. General Observations.

1. The houses in bad repair are much greater than the National average.
2. A third of all the houses are tenanted.
3. Over half the tenanted houses are in bad repair.
4. Houses fit only for demolition or closure are very few.
5. Three quarters of the tenanted houses lack the modern amenities.
6. Almost every sub-standard house is capable of improvement.

4. Particular Observations.

Very many owners did not know of the grants that are available, and held ridiculous fears of receiving such a grant. They welcomed my explanation of the system that no leaflet could provide.

The majority of tenants, young and old, suffers from an inherent Landlord Syndrome, a fear of the power of the Landlord; and although their personal position and legal strengths were explained where necessary, they welcomed repair and improvement on condition that the Landlords were clearly informed that action has been started by the Council and not the tenant. In a few cases the offer of repair was refused because of so called inconvenience, when questioned further the tenants admitted that they did not want to "upset" the Landlord.

In one case, the tenants, an elderly wife with an invalid husband, had brought up a family in a two bedroomed house over a period of 20 years with the water tap and sink 20 feet across an open yard.

There is no "Rachmanism" in Appledore but a very few Landlords of houses in poor condition with elderly rent-controlled tenants will only spend money on repairs after the greatest pressure has been brought to bear on them by authority and thereafter the tenant is treated in a very disappointing manner.

5. Recommendations for Future Housing Policy.

The following recommendations were accepted by the Council.

1. Where tenanted houses are found to be defective the landlords must be required to carry out repairs.
2. The survey of the houses of Appledore should be continued, the information being held until the promised new house improvement legislation comes into force.
3. Standard and discretionary improvement grants are to be encouraged and widely publicised.
4. A detailed report will be made to the Council when the new legislation is published and plans will be prepared for general improvement areas in Appledore.
5. Only a very few houses are so bad as to require closure and demolition.
6. The present Council policy of repair and improvement is correct.

(b) In Detail.

The Government has promised that the present legislation dealing with improvement areas in the Housing Act 1964 is to be repealed by a new Act to be produced in the present parliamentary session and within the next few months.

Local Authorities will be empowered to declare general improvement areas where the maximum grant will be increased from £155 to £200 in the case of standard grants and from £400 to £1,200 for discretionary grants.

The whole environment may be improved by the local authority and with a Government grant of 50% limited to £100 per house in the area. This grant is to be spent on such items as childrens play spaces, parking spaces, planting trees and flower beds, and public seats etc.

In some cases where the owners need a loan as well as a grant towards the improvement and repair only interest on the loan will be charged; the principle being secured on the property and recovered later.

Landlords will be encouraged to improve their houses by offering the incentive of increased rents. A controlled tenant paying a few shillings rent will, in return for an improved house in good repair, be required to pay a fair rent, to be fixed by the County Rent Officer.

As a last resort, Local Authorities will be empowered to buy houses for conversion or improvement if the landlord will not act. The Government will make grants available for acquisition and will increase the present assistance to £2,500 per flat.

The information produced by this survey demonstrates that Appledore has fallen behind with the advance of the standard of living and unless something is done within the next few years, the rising damp will continue to rise, the grouted roofs will start to slip and one day the house may decay to a state beyond help.

In a few months time a Royal Commission will be reporting on the re-organisation of local Government and very large administrative areas are anticipated. The "local" may no longer apply and Regional Government will be born. If Appledore is not brought up to standard by then, what will be the attitude of the Regional Planners?

Water Supply.

The water supply in the district is undertaken by the North Devon Water Board and has been satisfactory in bacteriological quality. Throughout the year the Water Board have taken a total of 54 bacteriological samples of drinking water, all of which have been examined by the Public Health Laboratory Service and found to be satisfactory. During the summer the quantity of water was found to be insufficient for periods of short duration. This is considered to be due to the large influx of holiday-makers in the area when the population rises to an estimated residential total of 18,000.

Only very few houses are known to be without a water supply direct into the house.

Swimming Pools.

There are eight swimming pools in the area including one school pool which is supervised by the County Council, plus two childrens paddling pools. Visits are made to these pools during the summer months and the pool supervisors are advised on the proper control of the pool with regard to the bacteriological purity, chlorination, filtration and clarity etc. Where necessary the swimming pool water is tested to establish the correct dosage of chlorine. In order to economise on the costs of sampling this year no bacteriological samples were submitted for examination.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The facilities for disposal of sewage in the area are generally unsatisfactory being either by untreated discharge to the river or sea, or by septic tank treatment and land drainage. The existing main sewers are continually being added to as new housing estates are developed and under certain conditions are subject to surcharge.

The Council's Consulting Engineers are at present carrying out a detailed survey of the sewerage in the area and it is intended to pump all sewage into the sea after receiving partial treatment.

Caravan Sites.

There are 13 licensed caravan sites in the district varying in size from 1 to 200. Residential caravans are permitted on 9 sites. The Council is responsible for the control of caravan sites by the issue of a licence to which there is attached general conditions. These conditions refer to number, site density, spacing, fire fighting, sanitary accommodation, good order etc. and have been recently revised. Following the revision nearly all sites have been visited and were found to comply with the conditions.

Maximum permitted number of licensed caravans..	..	993
Maximum permitted number of holiday caravans ..	..	891
Actual number of holiday caravans	..	710
Maximum permitted number of residential caravans ..	..	102
Actual number of residential caravans	..	68

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

The part of this legislation that is enforced by the Council covers the health, safety and welfare of people who are employed in offices and shops. The Act deals with cleanliness, overcrowding, lighting, temperature, sanitary accommodation, ventilation and safety.

Accidents.

All accidents that occur must be notified to the Council and an investigation must take place to establish the cause so that a recurrence may be prevented.

No notifications were received this year.

Exemptions.

Application can be made for exemption from the requirements of the Act concerning space, temperature, sanitary conveniences and washing facilities.

No applications were received this year.

Registration and General Inspections.

Premises	New Registrations	Total Number of Registered Premises	Number of Premises Inspected.
Offices	1	7	2
Retail Shops	0	41	0
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	0	0	0
Catering Establishments and Canteens	0	25	1
Fuel Storage Depots	0	0	0
TOTALS	1	73	3

Persons Employed in Registered Premises.

Premises	Male	Female	Total
Offices	7	9	16
Retail Shops	39	61	100
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	0	0	0
Catering Establishments and Canteens	47	185	232
Fuel Storage Depots	0	0	0
TOTALS	93	255	348

Analysis of Contraventions.

Section		Number of Contraventions Found							
4	Cleanliness	0							
5	Overcrowding.. .. .	0							
6	Temperature	0							
7	Ventilation	0							
8	Lighting	1							
9	Sanitary Conveniences	1							
10	Washing facilities	1							
11	Supply of drinking water	0							
12	Clothing accommodation.. .. .	0							
13	Sitting facilities	0							
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	0							
15	Eating facilities.. .. .	0							
16	Floor, passage and stairs	0							
17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	1							
18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery.. .. .	0							
19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery.. .. .	0							
23	Prohibition of heavy work	0							
24	First Aid	0							
	Other matters	0							
TOTAL		4							

Factories.

The Council are responsible for securing the provision of cleanliness, overcrowding, lighting, temperature, sanitary accommodation, ventilation and drainage in all non-mechanical factories and the provision of sanitary accommodation in mechanical factories.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority.	0	-	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1, which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority.	15	13	3	0
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	0	-	-	-
TOTALS	15	13	3	0

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
1. Want of cleanliness (s.1)	-	-	-	-	-
2. Overcrowding (s.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
3. Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
4. Inadequate ventilation(s.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
5. Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
6. Sanitary Conveniences (s.7.)					
a. Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b. Unsuitable or defective	4	2	-	1	-
c. Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
7. Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers).	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	4	2	-	1	-

	Section 110			Section 111		
Nature of Work	Number of Out rkers in Aug. list (S.110 1c).	Number of cases of default in sending lists.	Number of Prosecutions for Failure to sent list.	Number of instances of work in un-wholesome premises.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing apparel (making etc.)	34	0	0	0	0	0

Animal Boarding Establishments.

According to the Act of 1963 the Council are responsible for the licensing of boarding establishments for cats and dogs. A licence is issued subject to the premises complying with conditions relating to the number and types of animals, construction and size of quarters, heating, ventilation, lighting, water supply, food storage, disposal of excreta, fire prevention and isolation facilities.

Only one establishment is licensed for a total of 15 dogs and 14 cats but a total not exceeding 23 animals. The premises are satisfactory and the licence has been renewed again this year.

Common Lodging Houses.

A Local Authority is responsible for the registration of common lodging houses and the keepers so as to secure certain standards of accommodation.

There are no common lodging houses in the District.

Rodent Control.

For the first time this year a survey of the rodent population of the main sewers was carried out by a firm of specialist pest controllers. This survey initially involved a test-baiting programme for 10% of the main sewer manholes; 36 manholes were test-baited and 58% (21) were infested with rats. The follow up treatment to 76 manholes was soon in operation and the sewers were clear of rats within eight weeks of the initial test-baiting.

The Council were very impressed the the efficient and economic service of the pest control firm, Rentokil Limited, and it was decided to consider similar control in 1969.

The second most common complaint received by the department concerned rats and mice and altogether 43 complaints were received representing 14% of the total. The complaints were investigated and if an infestation was verified two alternatives were offered to the occupiers; either a "safe" poison and advice on baiting was given free of charge or the services of a trained rodent operative was available for which a charge was made. The work of the rodent operative during the year is summarised below.

	Rats	Mice
Number of Infestations at Private Premises.	2	0
Number of Infestations at Business Premises.	4	2
Total number of Visits.	6	2

Food Control.

1. Food Premises.

The Food Hygiene legislation requires that the Council from time to time may inspect premises where food is sold, stored or prepared for human consumption to secure certain standards.

The following is a summary of Food Premises in the District that are subject to inspection;

Groceries and General Provisions Shops	..	..	..	..	35
Restaurants and Canteens..	..	..	..	..	25
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	22
Hotels and Holiday Camps..	..	..	..	..	14
Sweets and Confectionery Shops	..	..	..	..	11
Butchers Shops	..	..	..	..	7
Greengrocers Shops	..	..	..	..	7
Ice Cream Parlours	..	..	..	..	6
Bread and Cake Shops	..	..	..	..	5
Dairies	..	..	..	..	5
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	4
Fish Frying Shops	..	..	..	..	3
Public Entertainment Halls	..	..	..	..	3
Chemist Shops	..	..	..	..	3
Nursing Homes	..	..	..	..	3
Poultry Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	1
<u>TOTAL</u>	..	..	..	..	154

All the above premises comply with the provisions of Regulations 16 (wash-hand basins) and 19 (sinks) of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

2. Food Delivery Vehicles and Stalls etc.

Regulations have recently come into force dealing with vehicles etc. where open food may be handled. Vehicles are required to be provided with sinks, wash-hand basins and hot water supplies. It is not generally known how many vehicles are operating in the area but inspections have been carried out whenever possible.

Number of Delivery Vehicles, Mobile Shops etc.	22
Number of Stalls	2

3. Food Sampling.

a. Ice Cream Control.

Ice cream is potentially a dangerous food and is subject to a very strict food hygiene control. 43 premises (excluding restaurants etc.) are registered for the sale and storage of ice cream including two premises manufacturing ice cream. One small stall reconstitutes and freezes a complete cold mix for immediate sale and a small factory manufactures ice cream for sale from four vans. The ice cream is satisfactorily prepared and heat treated on the factory premises.

Because of the strict control on the bacteriological purity of ice cream, samples are only taken from premises (including restaurants etc.) where unwrapped ice cream is handled. Contamination usually arises during the handling process from the rinse water used to clean the scoops and in most cases where the sample was unsatisfactory either the sterilant has not been added or the rinse water was not replaced often enough.

Number of Premises handling unwrapped ice cream	27
Number of Bacteriological Samples taken	19
Number of Bacteriological Samples found unsatisfactory	1

A comparison with the sampling results for the past three years shows that the ice cream is bacteriologically cleaner this year.

Unsatisfactory Samples.

1965	19%
1966	12%
1967	16%
1968	5%

b. General Food and Drugs Sampling.

The following samples were taken by the Devon County Council being the Statutory Food and Drugs Authority for this District.

<u>Samples</u>	<u>Examination</u>	<u>No. Taken</u>	<u>No. Unsatisfactory</u>
Unpasteurised milk	for general bacteriological cleanliness - methylene blue test.	14	2
Unpasteurised milk	for brucella abortus organism that causes undulant fever in humans	11	0
Unpasteurised milk	for general biological cleanliness - plate count.	4	0
Unpasteurised milk	for presence of biotics	3	0
School drinking water	for bacteriological cleanliness.	6	0
School milk	for general bacteriological cleanliness - methylene blue test.	8	1
School Swimming Pool Water.	for bacteriological cleanliness - plate count	5	1
Milk.	for milk fat, milk solids and water content.	14	0
Sausages	for pesticide content	2	0
Quick Gel, Tinned carrots, lemon drink, saffron, Grape Fruit Juice, Apricot Chutney, Instant Coffee, Meat Pasties, Fruit Sauce, Bitter Lemon Drink, Iron Jelloids, Vinegar, Tomato Juice Cocktail.	for various legal food standards.	13	0
Powdered Potato.	for various legal food standards - the manufacturers were requested to provide additional information to the labels.	2	2

I am indebted to the County Public Health Inspector for supplying me with the above information.

c. Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.

These regulations require the pasteurisation of liquid egg to be used in food intended for sale for human consumption, other than egg broken out on the Food manufacturers premises. Although there are no liquid egg pasteurisation plants in the district liquid egg is used by two bakeries.

Four samples of liquid egg were taken from the bakeries for examination by the Alpha-Amylase test during the year and all results were satisfactory.

Unfit Food.

If a person has in his possession food that is intended for sale for human consumption but is unfit, then an offence has been committed and if any food is found that is unfit then a Public Health Inspector has the power to seize the food and take it before a Justice of the Peace for an order of condemnation. This is a very rare occurrence and in practice there has developed a trade relationship where a Public Health Inspector is called to examine suspected food and if the food is found to be unfit it is then voluntarily surrendered for disposal.

During the year 956 lbs. of food has been inspected, found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered for disposal by the Council.

Food Complaints.

The Devon County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority for the District and there is a close working liaison between the two Public Health Departments. All food complaints are referred to the County Council if action is considered necessary.

The following complaints have been received during the year:-

<u>Nature of Complaint</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
1. Tooth found in pork luncheon meat.	Found to be pigs tooth - complaint unjustified - no action taken.
2. Mould in Apple Turnover.	Warning letter sent to baker.
3. Alleged chewing gum in a packet of stuffing.	Public Analyst reported that the "foreign body" was part of the constituents of the recipe - no action taken.
4. Blood in two bottles of raw milk	Producer/Retailer prosecuted and found guilty but given a conditional discharge for 12 months and ordered to pay £9 8s. 0d. costs.

	<u>Nature of Complaint</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
5.	Grass, cotton fibre and cat hair in an unopened bottle of pasteurised milk.	The dairy was prosecuted and found guilty being fined £5 and ordered to pay £4 14s. Od. costs.
6.	Mould on a Fruit Pie.	The retailer was prosecuted and found guilty being fined £5 and ordered to pay £4 14s. costs.
7.	Untreated milk sold in a bottle marked "Pasteurised milk".	Warning letter sent to dairy.

Poultry Inspection.

Number of poultry processing premises within the district	3
Number of visits to these premises	2
Types of birds processed;	
turkeys	5,000
broilers	3,150
hens	600
ducks	20
Total number of birds processed during the year.. .. .	8,770
Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	0.5%
Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption	215 lbs

These premises are considered to be processing birds under satisfactory conditions with the minimum of cruelty. Insufficient time is available for an inspection of the carcasses during the slaughtering process and great reliance is placed on the processor for voluntary inspection and withdrawal of birds that are unfit for human consumption.



